

THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A password generation and verification system, comprising:

element group storage means for storing a plurality of element groups that are belong to a selected category that ~~is~~ pre-selected from a plurality of different categories, wherein each element group belongs to a selected category and includes a plurality of at least one password elements input by a user that belongs to the selected category thereof;

scramble element storage means for pre-storing a plurality of scramble elements ~~that belong to said selected category according to said category;~~

category sampling means for randomly sampling a predetermined ~~specific~~ number of specific categories from said selected category;

mixed element group generating means for mixing a sampled password element that is randomly sampled from the plurality of password elements stored in said element group belonging to said specific categories with a predetermined plurality of sampled scramble elements, different than said sampled password element, that are randomly sampled from the plurality of scramble elements stored in said scramble element storage means and belonging to the same category as said sampled password element to generate a mixed element group for each specific category, each mixed element group arranging said sampled password element and said sampled scramble elements in random order;

~~mixed element group generating means for mixing a sampled password element that is randomly sampled from said element group storage means according to said specific category and a predefined number of sampled scramble elements, different from said sampled password element, that are randomly sampled from said scramble element storage means according to said specific category, and subsequently generating, according to said specific category, a mixed element group, where said sampled password element and said sampled scramble elements are arranged in random order;~~

display means for displaying said mixed element group;

selecting means for selecting, from said mixed element group displayed by said display means, a selected password element for each ~~according to said~~ specific category; and

verifying means for verifying said selected password element to said sampled password element for each ~~according to said~~ specific category.

2. (Original) A password generation and verification system according to claim 1, wherein said element group is stored, with said password element associated with said specific category, in said element group storage means.

3. (Original) A password generation and verification system according to claim 1, wherein said password element includes image information.

4. (Original) A password generation and verification system according to claim 1, wherein said mixed element group generating means is coupled via a telecommunication line to said display means and said selecting means.

5. (Original) A password generation and verification system according to claim 4, wherein said telecommunication line includes lines for utilizing a fixed telephone, cellular telephone, and the Internet.

6. (Original) A password generation and verification system according to claim 1, wherein said verifying means outputs a match signal when all of said selected password elements match said sampled password elements.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for verifying a password, comprising the steps of:

randomly specifying, from a plurality of element groups that belong to a category that is pre-selected from a plurality of different categories, a predetermined number of said element groups, wherein each element group includes a plurality of ~~at least one~~ password elements that belongs to the category thereof;

mixing a sampled password element that is randomly sampled from one of said specified element groups with ~~and a~~ sampled scramble elements, different than ~~from~~ said sampled password element, that belongs to the same category as said sampled password element to generate, ~~and subsequently~~ ~~generating, according to said category,~~ a mixed element group for each specified element group, where said sampled password element and said sampled scramble element are arranged in random order;

displaying said mixed element group;

selecting, from said displayed element group, a selected password element for each mixed element group ~~according to said category;~~ and

verifying, ~~according to the same category,~~ said selected password element to said sampled password element for each category.

8. (Original) A method for verifying a password according to claim 7, wherein said step of generating further comprising the step of sending said mixed element group onto a display device that is electrically coupled via a telecommunication line for utilizing a fixed telephone, cellular telephone, and the Internet, and receiving said selected password element via said telecommunication line.

9. (Original) A method for verifying a password according to claim 7, wherein said step of verifying further comprises the step of outputting a match signal if all of said selected password elements match said sampled password elements.

10. (New) A password generation and verification system according to claim 1, wherein said selected password element is not verified to said sampled password element when said selected password element is not selected within a predetermined time.

11. (New) A method for verifying a password according to claim 7, wherein said step of verifying said selected password element to said sampled password element is denied when said selected password element is not selected within a predetermined time.